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* Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I move that items 9 to 11 and 17 be adjourned for three months from to-day."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

IV

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT, 1920.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" I move, Sir,

that the Bill [a] to amend the Local Boards Act, 1920, be taken into consideration."

Mr. P. Bhakthavatsulu Nayudu :—" I second it."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" I beg to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee composed of the following gentlemen :—

(1) The hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government.
(2) The hon. the Advocate-General.
(3) Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
(4) Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
(5) Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
(6) Khan Bahadur Muhammad Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur.
(7) Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
(8) ,, Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib.
(9) ,, A. Kaleswara Rao.
(10) ,, C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
(11) ,, S. Satyamurti.
(12) ,, Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
(13) Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapathi Mudaliyar.
(14) Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
(15) ,, Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib.

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" I second it."

The Council rose for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.).

* The hon. the President :—" The Council will now resume the discussion of the motion of Mr S. Satyamurti to refer Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed's Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act to a Select Committee."

* Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that under Standing Order No. 40(2) permission be granted to refer the Bill to a Select Committee composed of more than 15 members."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" I second it."

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Sir, I wanted to oppose even the motion for reference to a Select Committee. . ."

[a] Published in the *Fort St.George Gazette*, dated 2nd October 1928, as Bill No 15 of 1928.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :— " Let us dispose of this question of referring the Bill to a Select Committee of more than 15 members. The question is that under Standing Order No. 40(2), permission be granted to refer the Bill to a Select Committee composed of more than 15 members."

The question was put and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :— " Let the additional names be pfoposed."

Mr C. S GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR :—" I beg to move that the following names be added to the list of persons already proposed for the Select Committee :—

(1) Mr. P. Bhakthavatsulu Nayudu,

(2) Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai,

(3) Mr. J. Kuppuswami,

and, Mr. President, may I add a few more names "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have not got any such amendment in my hands."

Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR :—" Those are the three names I propose to add to the Select Committee."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I second it."

The question was put and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The amended motion of Mr. Satyamurti is for the discussion of the House."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Sir, I want to oppose the reference of this Bill to a Select Committee, and my reason for this is that the Government have under consideration the amendment of the Local Boards Act in a comprehensive manner and that Bill will be placed before the Local Boards Advisory Committee, as stated in answer to a question by my hon. Friend Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao. A meeting of that committee is to be held next Monday. Soon after that, conclusions will be arrived at by Government, and the Bill will be ready for introduction at the next meeting of the Legislative Council. In these circumstances, I would like hon. Members to consider whether there is any necessity to proceed with this Bill which only deals with this question in a piecemeal fashion. Besides that, there is also a Bill by my hon. Friend, Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao, which is more comprehensive than this Bill itself.

" The main principle of Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed's Bill is the abolition of nominations to local boards. As will be seen from the published Bill of the Government, this question has been dealt with in the Government Bill itself. The second point in this Bill is the reservation of seats on local boards for minority communities on the basis of a joint electorate. This is a thing which has been provided for in the Government measure. Provision for the appointment of supernumerary members to district boards to represent Europeans, Anglo-Indians and officials is another feature of this Bill, which is also provided for in the Government Bill. The only new point in the Bill now brought forward by Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed is with regard to the presidentship going by rotation to a member of the Hindu, Muslim and Christian communities respectively. This is a point which will also be considered by the Local Boards Advisory Committee when they consider the

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Government Bill. I have myself told Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed that it is a new point which has not been raised before but that it will be considered in dealing with the Government Bill. In these circumstances, I do not think there is any necessity for this Bill going to a Select Committee."

* Mr. K. R. Karant :—" Mr. President, Sir, I support this motion, and I cannot understand the reasons advanced by the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government, viz., because his main reason seems to be that the Government have got a Bill, and therefore this Bill should not be gone through before that. So far as I know, the Bill published by the Government has raised a storm of protest in the country. The chief point in it is the abolition of taluk boards, and I think the Minister will not come forward with a Bill containing such a provision. I am quite sure that the Bill will not see the light of day before this House, and it is no use waiting for it because it will come up some day or other. I do not support this motion because I agree with the provisions of this Bill itself. As for example I cannot agree with the reservation of presidentships to particular communities by rotation. However, I do not see any reason why this Bill should not be considered and why we should wait till the Minister comes forward with a Bill in the future."

* Mr. L. K. Tulasiram :—" Sir, I agree with my hon. Friend, Mr. Karant, when he says that this Bill of Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed should be taken into consideration now. The Chief Minister's reason for opposing this motion is that Government will be bringing forward their own Bill. It may be according to their own ideas, and they may choose their own time. When there is a Bill before us by a private Member of this hon. House, it should be given an opportunity to be discussed here. The reason of Government bringing forward their own Bill is not a sufficient reason for opposing a legislation of this kind. The Government may bring in their own Bill, and at that time it may be considered But when we have a Bill ready made, which has been circulated, I see no reason why Government should oppose this piece of legislation."

* The hon. the President :—" The question is that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee composed of the following members :—

(1) The hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government
(2) The hon. the Advocate-General.
(3) Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
(4) Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu
(5) Mr. V. I Muniswami Pillai.
(6) Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur.
(7) Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
(8) Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib.
(9) Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao.
(10) Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
(11) Mr. S. Satyamurti.
(12) Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
(13) Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapathi Mudaliyar.

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(14) Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
(15) Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib.
(16) Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu.
(17) Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.
(18) Mr. J. Kuppuswami Choudry.''

The question was put and declared lost.

A poll was demanded, and the House divided thus :

Ayes.

1. Mr. V. Ramjee Rao.
2. ,, Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
3. ,, S. Satyamurti.
4. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
5. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
6. ,, P. Anjaneyulu.
7. ,, P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
8. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
9. ,, C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
10. ,, G. Harisarvottama Rao.
11. ,, C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
12. ,, K. V. R. Swami.
13. ,, K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur.
14. ,, D. Narayana Raju.
15. Dr. B. S. Mallayya.
16. Mr. K. R. Karant.
17. Mr. C. Obi Reddi.
18. ,, A. Parasurama Rao Pantulu.
19. ,, C. Ramasomayajulu.
20. ,, Basheer Ahmad Sayeed.
21. ,, P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu.
22. ,, A. Kaleswara Rao.
23. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
24. ,, K. Koti Reddi.
25. ,, L. K. Tulasiram.
26. ,, C. Marudavanam Pillai.
27. ,, K. V. Krishnaswami Nayakar.
28. ,, B. Venkataratnam.
29. Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur.
30. Muhammad Kadir Mohideen Sahib Bahadur.

Noes.

1. The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks.
2. ,, Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
3. ,, Mr. T. E. Moir.
4. ,, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
5. ,, Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar.
6. ,, Dr. P. Subbarayan.
7. Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Reddi.
8. Mr. C. B. Cotterell.
9. ,, H. A. Watson.
10. ,, C. A. Souter.
11. ,, A. McG. C. Tampoe.
12. ,, C. W. E. Cotton.
13. ,, V. Ch. John.
14. ,, M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
15. ,, Syed Tajuddin Sahib.
16. ,, H. B. Ari Gowdar.
17. ,, A. B. Shetty.
18. ,, J. Bheemayya.
19. ,, J. A. Davis.
20. ,, R. Foulkes.
21. ,, P. J. Gnanavaram Pillai.
22. ,, Mahumad Schamnad Sahib.
23. ,, Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara.
24. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur.
25. Mr. Al. Ar. Narayanan Chettiyar.
26. ,, T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.
27. ,, K. Krishnan.
28. ,, N. Siva Raj.
29. ,, M. Gangadhara Siva.
30. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
31. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
32. ,, W. P. A. Soundara Pandia Nadar.
33. Mr. S. Subrahmanya Moopanar.
34. ,, Daniel Thomas.
35. ,, S. Venkiah.
36. ,, D. K. Syed Ibrahim Sahib.
37. Rao Sahib M. Hamppayya.
38. Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja.
39. The Zamindar of Kallikota.
40. Mr. K. Ramachandra Padayachi.
41. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
42. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
43. Mr. G. R. Premayya.
44. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
45. Mr. Ramanath Goenka.
46. The Zamindar of Gollapalli.
47. Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar.
48. ,, T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
49. ,, P. Siva Rao.
50. ,, Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai.
51. ,, K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
52. ,, K. P. Raman Menon.
53. ,, C. Gopal Menon.
54. ,, B. Ramachandra Reddi.
55. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.
56. Mr. P. T. Rajan.
57. ,, T. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar.
58. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
59. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi.
60. Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.
61. Mr. A. V. Bhanoji Rao.
62. ,, S. H. Slater.

Ayes 30. Noes 62.

The motion was lost.

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The motion of Mr. Basheer Ahmad to take the Bill into consideration is for the consideration of the House."

The hon. Dr P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Sir, for the reasons I adduced for not referring the Bill to the Select Committee I think we need not consider this Bill now and that it may be deferred till the Government Bill is published."

* Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—" Mr. President, when the Minister opposed my Bill I thought he had already given up his case. My Bill after all is a very modest one and it has incorporated within it the very provision which was in the Bill published by the Government and which Bill is now shelved, though the Minister says he has referred it to the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee has not yet met and so I should take it that the Bill has been shelved. I say that the provision contained in the Minister's Bill is itself incorporated in my Bill. What are the provisions in my Bill and what is their scope ? One of the provisions says that nominations should go. The Minister and his party have off and on said that they are for the abolition of nominations. Then the other provision is that minorities should be ensured some reservation of seats, some representation. That principle also has been accepted on the floor of this House by the Minister and also by his predecessors in office, and it is that very principle which is now recommended in the Nehru Committee report which many of my colleagues, including even the ministerialists, have heartily supported. Mr. President, the third provision is that local boards of some districts should be reserved for members of the minority communities to elect presidents by rotation. This principle is not a novel one. In the Corporation of Bombay, this principle has been accepted and acted upon for a long time. The principle of reservation has been accepted and incorporated in the Act of 1923 regarding the Calcutta Corporation. I am surprised that having once admitted the reasonableness, the efficacy and the justice of the principles of this Bill the Minister and his party should have now opposed it. After all, they forget that this Bill comes from a member of the minority community which has been all along neglected by this Government, and also by the majority party—I make bold to say that—except of course the Congress party. I was surprised to see that the Justice party members also rose against this Bill. The Minister's only reason seems to be that since the Government is now considering to bring forward a Bill, no private or non-official member need take interest in legislation. If that is the reason, I do not see why there should be any provision at all in the Act and the Rules enabling non-official members to legislate. The Government might have been considering for years and years a certain Bill which never may see the light of day. Could that be the reason which has influenced some of my colleagues here to vote against my Bill ? After all, Mr. President, unless and until these three or four principles in the Bill are going to be settled amongst us, there is not going to be harmony between the two great communities and also third community, viz., the Christian community, in this country. Muslims are entitled to a certain proportion in the administrative departments. I don't say that I stand for communal representation, in its very bald and very narrow sense. I do claim that Muslims shall have a certain share in the administrative machinery of this Government and also in all those things which concern them in the government of the country. Local boards are an integral part of the

2-45 p.m.

machinery of the Government and there the minority community must have certain rights. These rights must also be reserved. I don't preach for separate representation nor for separate electorates. I say the general electorate may elect a few representatives to these union, taluk and district boards. So also in the election of presidents to these local boards. I have mentioned that to such of the boards as may be reserved by Government, and only to those boards, the principle of rotation might apply. It is but just that Muslims as such should be given the right to have some share in the administration and governance of local boards in order that they may come up to the level and cope with the other communities in the increasing political exigencies of this country. I do not see any valid reason for my colleagues to oppose this Bill. The Bill of the Minister may come in its own time. As I have already introduced this Bill, my desire is that it may be referred to a Select Committee. The Minister's Bill will not be delayed or detained on account of this Bill being referred to a Select Committee, or even passed. Mr. President, I am very sorry that some of my Muslim colleagues have also voted against the Bill, simply because Government said that they would bring forward a Bill—probably on Doomsday, and not before that, certainly not within the term of this Council. Some of the Muslims have always been duped by Government and their agents and I am sorry to note it even to-day. Except two of my colleagues on the left, the others opposite have opposed this Bill, not realizing that it is after all for the good of the minority communities that the Bill is sought to be introduced. Yet, when they go outside the Council they say 'We must act as a party and we must safeguard the Muslim interests.' Here is a clear case of Muslim interests involved and four of my Mussalman colleagues have voted against it. My Christian friends and the depressed classes whose interests are also sought to be safeguarded have voted against this Bill. I don't know what to say of them. They will very soon realize the folly of their action."

* Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"I rise to a point of order. I am not quite sure whether the motion made by the hon. the Chief Miniser that the consideration of this Bill be postponed till the Government Bill is published is in order."

* The hon. the President :—"The hon. the Minister only opposed the motion before the House. He did not make any motion himself."

* Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed :—"I was referring to my colleagues, the Muslims, the Christians and the depressed classes who have voted against this Bill under the false idea that the Government would bring forward their Bill and that they would enjoy the fruits of paradise then. I only want that they should open their eyes and see things in their real state. Unless they unite and see that their interests are safeguarded, they will not in the long run stand to gain from a foreign and alien bureaucracy which is ruling here just for its own interests and not for the interests of the people. I appeal to my hon. Friends not to oppose this Bill, but to pass the motion before them."

* Mr. K. R. Karant :—"I find, Sir, that the Bill has been refused to be sent to a Select Committee, and the hon. the Minister also has opposed it. When he made his speech, he said he had no objection for the postponement of the discussion, though he has not put in any amendment. So, I beg to move that the consideration of this motion be adjourned for two months from

this date. Meantime, the Government may show their sincerity by bringing forward their own Bill. This time I think will be quite sufficient."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" I beg to second it."

* The hon. the President :—" The question is that the consideration of this motion be adjourned for two months from this date."

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Mr. President, if my friend will make it three months I would agree to this amendment, because two months would be too short a time to bring in the Government Bill."

* The hon. the President :—" The motion is already before the House. The hon. Minister will do well to move it as an amendment of his own."

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I have not given notice and with your permission. I move to amend the word 'two' into 'three' in the motion of Mr. Karant."

The amendment was put and carried.

* The hon. the President :—" The amended adjournment motion, viz., that the consideration of this motion be adjourned for three months from this date, is before the House."

* Mr. Mahmud Schamnad :—" I rise to oppose the adjournment motion of Mr. Karant, and support Mr. Basheer's motion while I strongly deprecate his insinuations against the Muslim members on this side of the House."

* The hon. the President :—" I do not think the hon. Member will be in order in taking this opportunity to reply to the accusations made by Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed. Three months hence, when the motion comes for the consideration of the House, the hon. Member will certainly have the opportunity to attack Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed." (Laughter.)

* Mr. Mahmud Schamnad :—" I oppose Mr. Karant's motion for this reason that if after three months the Bill is to be taken up, we may not have much time to go on with the Bill. That means putting it off indefinitely. I support Mr. Basheer Ahmad's Bill for this reason. As the rules exist, it is almost impossible for minority communities to become presidents of taluk boards or district boards. So if this opportunity is lost, we may not have another opportunity in the near future to have this amendment. There are other provisions which I do not very much press, such as doing away with nominations and so on. All the same we can discuss them and find out some *via media*. So I oppose Mr. Karant's motion."

* The hon. the President :—" The question is that the consideration of this motion be adjourned for three months from this date."

The motion was put and carried.

V

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT, 1920.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" Mr. President, I beg leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920." 3 p.m.

* The hon. the President (after a pause) :—" For want of a seconder the proposition is lost."